

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 3, 2004. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 8 and 19 are pending in the application, with Claims 4, 9 to 18 and 20 to 22 having been cancelled. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 8 and 19 have been amended, and Claims 1 and 19 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

A new title has been selected.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 to 7, 15, 17 and 19 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,200,991 (Motoyanagi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,297,893 (Moretta); and Claims 8, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Motoyanagi in view of Moretta and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,195 (Leung). Claims 4, 9 to 18 and 20 to 22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of their rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the remaining claims are respectfully requested.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to a communication system having a first communication apparatus capable of a first speech communication via a first communication line and a second communication apparatus capable of a second speech communication via the first communication line or a second communication line. The communication system comprises a first speech device provided for the first communication apparatus for performing the first speech communication, and a handset speech device provided for the second communication apparatus for performing the second speech communication. The communication system

also comprises a hands-free speech device provided for the second communication apparatus for performing the second speech communication, and a first detecting device for detecting a connection between the first communication apparatus and the second communication apparatus. In addition, the communication system comprises a second detecting device for detecting a connection status of the first communication line, and a switching device for switching a speech communication from the first speech communication via the first communication line by the first speech device to the second speech communication via the first communication line by the hands-free speech device, in accordance with detecting by the first detecting device and the second detecting device. The speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication by the first speech device and the second speech communication by the hands-free speech device.

Independent Claim 19 as amended is directed to a control method for a communication system having a first communication apparatus capable of a first speech communication via a first communication line and a second communication apparatus capable of a second speech communication via the first communication line or a second communication line, the first communication apparatus having a first speech device for performing the first speech communication, and the second communication apparatus having a handset speech device and a hands-free speech device for performing the second speech communication. The method comprises a first detecting step of detecting a connection between the first and second communication apparatus, and a second detecting step of detecting a connection status of the first communication line. The method also comprises a switching step of switching the first speech communication via the first

communication line by the first speech device to the second speech communication via the first communication line by the hands-free speech device, in accordance with detecting in the first detecting step and the second detecting step. The speech communication over the first communication line is maintained even if there is a switch between the first speech communication by the first device and the second speech communication by the hands-free speech device.

A feature of the present invention therefore lies in maintaining speech communication if a switch in communication occurs between a first device of the first communication apparatus and a hands-free speech device of the second communication apparatus. The applied references of Motoyanagi, Moretta and Leung are not seen to disclose or suggest at least this feature.

As understood by Applicants, Motoyanagi discloses an image communication apparatus in which a mobile telephone set of a cordless telephone device is connected with a facsimile device through a connector. See Motoyanagi, Abstract. When an addressee's terminal responds to a dialing call from the mobile telephone set, the mobile telephone set can hear an answer sound from the addressee's terminal through a handset (not shown). See Motoyanagi, column 9, lines 5 to 25. Motoyanagi is also said to allow use of the mobile telephone set without hindering regular telephone communication when disconnected from the facsimile device. See Motoyanagi, column 10, lines 61 to 65.

Although Motoyanagi may be seen to disclose that telephone communication is not hindered upon disconnecting the mobile telephone set from the facsimile device, nothing in Motoyanagi is seen to disclose that its facsimile device includes a hands-free speech device. Motoyanagi merely describes use of a handset device.

As such, Motoyanagi could not possibly describe that communication is maintained if a switch in communication occurs between a first device of the first communication apparatus and the hands-free speech device of the second communication apparatus.

In addition, Morcetta and Leung have been reviewed and are not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Motoyanagi.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing remarks, independent Claims 1 and 19 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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